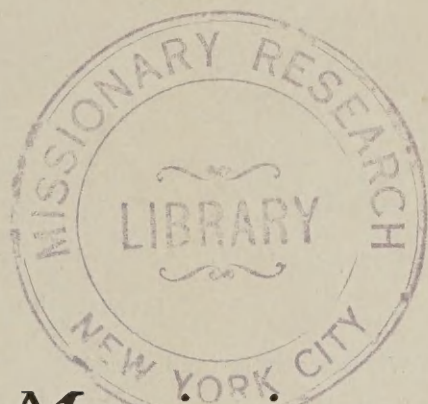
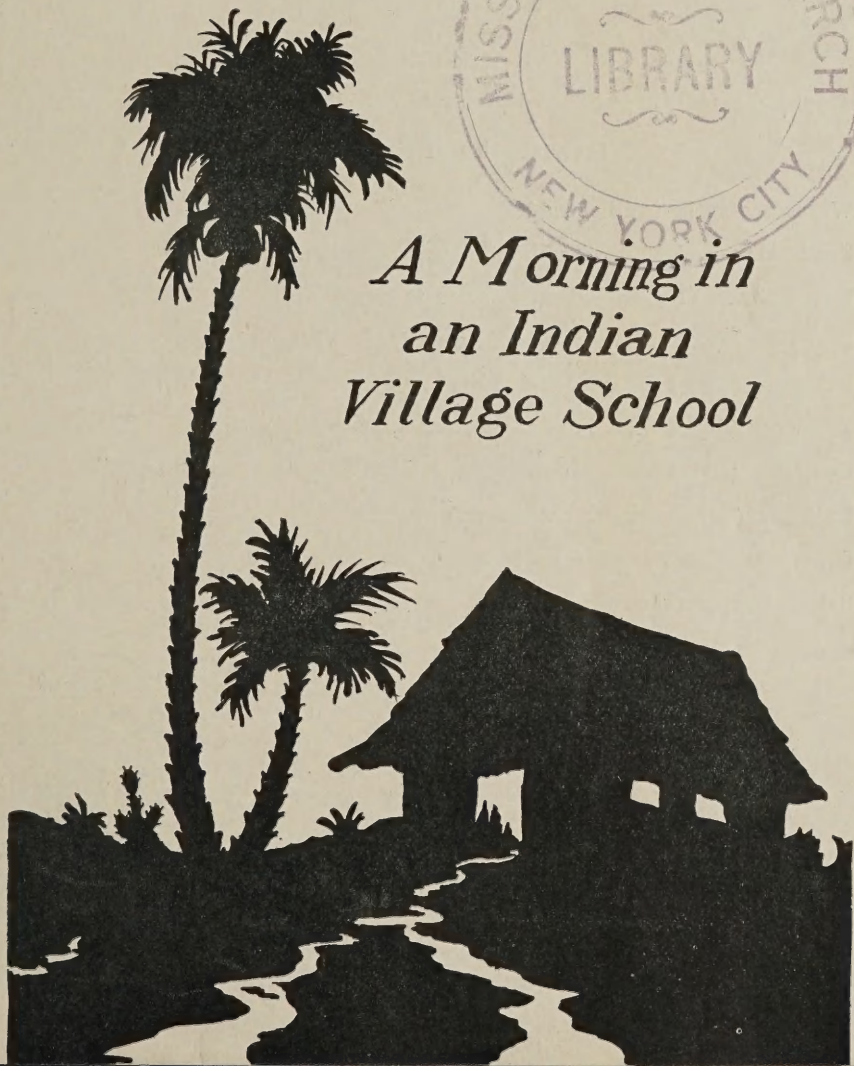


1711



*A Morning in
an Indian
Village School*



Pronunciation of strange words

Words are spoken rather rapidly.

Sundaram (Sun'-dram, u, as in pupil and a, as in art.)

NagaRatnam (Na'-ga-Rat'-nam, a, as in arm.)

Swamidoss (Swam'-i-doss, a, as in arm, i, as in hit, and o, as in odd.)

Subbardu (Sub'-bar-du, u, as in rule, a, as in art, and u, as in true.)

Jessudoss (Ja'-za-doss. a, as in ate, and o, as in odd.)

Gongerdu (Gon-ger-du, o, as in gone, e, as in err, u, as in true.)

Ruthama (Ruth-a-ma, a, as in arm.)

Graceama (Grace-a-ma, a, as in arm.)

Salaam! (a greeting, Sa-laam, a, as in arm.)

Costumes

Christian may wear trousers or a poncha (a straight piece of cloth about $1\frac{1}{4}$ yds. in width and 3 yds. in length, is wound around the body.) Beginning at the front, the cloth is carried backward, brot around to the front and fastened, giving the effect of a straight long skirt. The color of either trousers or poncha should be white. A shirt of any color may be worn, preferably white with wide bright colored stripes. Any coat will do, but the shirt-tail, which is worn on the outside of the trousers or poncha, must hang about a foot below the coat. A piece of cloth, about three yards in length, is wound about the head, forming a turban. The turban may be of any bright color. Low shoes may be worn without socks.

Gonderdu wears a poncha of red and an old shirt in the same fashion as described. He wears no coat. His hair is long and twisted in a long knot which extends low on his neck. He is barefooted.

(Older children or woman could take the part of Indian men.)

Schoolboys may wear straight short pants or ponchas. They wear shirts in the same fashion as the men. Some may wear coats if they like. All boys are barefooted.

Schoolgirls may wear Saris (a straight piece of cloth about $\frac{3}{4}$ yd. in width and 3 yds. in length.) The Sari is draped about the body. Instead of a Sari they may wear straight full skirts reaching to their ankles. The skirts must be very full, so that they fall gracefully when the girls sit down.

A plain little waist, with tight short sleeves, and a high neck with a straight band, is worn with either Sari or skirt. The waist hangs loosely over the top of the skirt, about three inches below the waist line.

The Sari may also be draped over any dress, then the waist is not necessary.

To drape a Sari—Beginning at the front, holding a corner of the Sari in the left hand, bring the cloth backward, around the body to the front, now catch a bit of the cloth in the right hand and tie it to the corner held in the left hand, this fastens the Sari securely around the body. Now lay some pleats in the cloth and tuck the top of the pleats in over the knot. Pass the remainder of the cloth over the left hip, up under the right arm and over the left shoulder. The end may hang loose down the back, or be brought around under the right arm, across the front and the corner tucked in at the left side.

The girl's dresses and Saris may be of any color. They wear bracelets and beads and are barefooted.

A Morning in An Indian Village School

By Mrs. C. D. Schwan

CHARACTERS

Christian Catechist and village school teacher

Sundaram	}	Schoolboys
NagaRatnam		
Swamidoss		
Isaac		
Subbardu		
Jessudoss		

Gongerdu Father of Subbardu

Ruthama	}	School girls
Graceama		

(If desired there may be other children in the school)

Scene

Interior of an Indian Village Schoolroom. The walls are plain and may have a few paper pictures of flowers, birds or animals stuck around. The furniture is the teacher's desk and chair. (An old kitchen table and chair could be used for this bit of furniture). A small blackboard on which is written the 117th Psalm, is either hung on the wall or placed on an easel near the teacher's table.

All of the children should come to school carrying a book or two, a few may also have slates and ink bottles. (The Indian boys and girls very often carry their books, etc., on the top of their heads.)

Christian stands in doorway ringing a bell. NagaRatnam, Sundaram, Graceana, Jessudoss and Ruthama appear with books, etc., As each one comes in the door they raise the right hand to the forehead and say "Salaam!" The teacher returns their greeting by saying "Salaam!"

Christian: NagaRatnam, where are Swamidoss, Isaac and Subbardu?

NagaRatnam: Sir, they are playing marbles in the village street.

Christian: Will you call them? (NagaRatnam leaves the room).

Christian: (Looking out of the doorway) O Gongerdu! (Gongerdu comes to doorway, bows and says Salaam!) Why do you let your son wander about the streets like a washerman's donkey? Do you want him to grow up as illiterate as you are?

Gongerdu: I want you to educate him, so that he may feed me in my old days. Why do you fall on me with your wrath?

Christian: Your boy is not here. He is in the village street and the sun is high in the heavens already.

Gongerdu: You should bring him into the school. I leave him in your hands.

Christian: What can I do with such parents. No wonder your son is a buffalo.

Gongerdu: Salaam! (Quietly turns away).
(NagaRatnam appears with Swamidoss, Isaac, and Subbardu. They greet the teacher by raising right hand to the forehead and saying Salaam!).

Christian: Swamidess! Isaac! You are late again. I shall talk to your parents to-night, when they come to prayers. (turns) Ruthama, where is Sarahma?

Ruthama: She is tending the baby, her mother is working in the fields to-day.

Christian: (Looking around the group) Sundaram, where is Anantam?

Sundaram: Sir, he has gone, with his family, to another village to attend a wedding.

Christian: Where is Isaiah?

Sundaram: Sir, the caste man said that he cannot come to school any more, that Isaiah must watch cattle, that out-castes do not need to know how to read and write, and if he comes to school again, he will not give his father any more work.

Christian: We shall see. When the missionary comes, we shall tell him what the caste man said.

NagaRatnam: When will the missionary come?

Christian: Who knows; since they have these motor cars, one is never safe, they may inspect the school any minute.

Jessudoss: If he comes can we sing and dance around the May-Pole for him?

Christian: Perhaps, if you are good children. (Taps bell calling children to order) Take your places. (Children stand in a row along the wall, place books on the floor in front of them and fold their arms). We will read a portion out of the Bible Book, offer prayer and sing a song. (Reads Mark 9:36-42. Then steps to blackboard and points to words as all repeat the 117th. Psalm, after which they all sing, "Pass Me not O Gentle Savior". The children now all sit on the floor).

Christian: Jessudoss, bring in some sand and spread it on the floor, so that the little children may practice writing their letters. (Jessudoss leaves the room).

Christian: Swamidoss, read the lesson.

Swamidoss: (Stands, opens book and numbles).

Christian: Can you not read the portion?

Swamidoss: Sir, my book is dirty.

Christian: (Sarcastically) So you can not dance, the drum is cracked. Had you studied instead of playing marbles, you could read. NagaRatnam, you try it. (Swamidoss sits down).

NagaRatnam: (Stands and reads slowly) I hope you are not a la, la—

Christian: You too are sharper at eating than at reading. Ruthama, you read. (NagaRatnam sits down and hands book to Ruthama.)

Ruthama: (Stands and reads very well) "I hope you are not a lazy child. God is not pleased to have us waste our time. Time is so precious that some one has said, 'God only gives it to us by seconds.'"

I will tell you an old fable about 'The Grasshopper and the Ant.' A grasshopper that had sung all summer, grew very hungry when winter came. It had not stored away any food. So the grasshopper went to the ant to beg for some rice. 'What did you do all summer?' asked Mrs. Ant. 'O, I sang to please the people', said Mrs. Grasshopper. 'Very well,' said Mrs. Ant, 'now you can dance.' It was not a very kind answer, but I think it may teach us all a lesson."

Christian: See, you men, this girl puts you to shame! Surely some kind friend in America will give money so that this child may go on and read in the Girl's School at Gudur.

Jessudoss: (Coming in with a small bucket of sand, excitedly says) Sir! Sir! The Missionary is coming, I heard his Ford.

Christian: (excited) Jessudoss, put the bucket of sand over in the corner. Now children, when the Missionary comes, be sure and Salaam. And when you are asked to recite the Bible verses, do so properly, or I shall punish you after he has gone.

Children in unison: We know all our Bible verses.

Isaac: I know the commandments and the Lords Prayer.

Graceama: (Who is very small, pipes up) Yes and I know the Creed too.

Christian: Children be quiet.

Sundaram: (Who has rushed to the door, turns and says) Ah! Jessudoss! It is not the Missionary, it is only the buss!
(All the children look disappointed and rush to the door, to make sure.)

Christian: (Following children) We will go out and put up the May-Pole. The Missionary may come this afternoon. (All leave the room).



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